

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [00032] with the following paragraph:

[00032] Separation of the tags 23 depends on a variety of factors including, but not limited to material from which the strip 20 is made, a feed angle (β_1), at which the strip 20 is delivered to the housing (FIG. 4), an angle (~~β_2~~) (α) at which the common base ~~38~~ 18 extends relative to a support surface 17, a depth of notches between the tags 23 and, and of course, a position of multiplicity of rollers defining one or more flex points relative to one another.

Please replace paragraph [00033] with the following paragraph:

[00033] Referring to FIG. 4, lifting the common base 18 with the housing 12 relative to the support surface ~~17~~ 13 causes the feed roll 35 to displace so that the feed angle (β_1) of the strip 20, defined between a tangent 15 to a curved stretch of the strip 20 and a vertical 13, progressively changes. As a consequence, the tags 23 guided over the feed roller 35, undergo an initial bending which, by itself, is not sufficient to completely sever the tags, but contributes to a final separation of the tags down a path from the feed roller 35. Displacement of the housing 12 can be realized by a variety of means 120, which are configured to function as a piston and cylinder unit coupled to and displacing the common base ~~38~~ 18 to the desired position of the feed roller 35 relative to the roll 21.